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Beirut airport traffic paralysed

BEIRUT (R) — Traffic was halted for 90 minutes at Beirut's international airport Sunday when gunmen tried to prevent the departure of an airliner carrying the daughter of a Christian cabinet minister, airport sources said. Traffic was suspended after unidentified gunmen surrounded a Middle East Airlines plane on a runway as it was preparing to take off for Paris, the sources said. Passengers on the plane included the 13-year-old daughter of Health Minister Joseph Hashem, who represents the right-wing Falangist Party in the "national unity" cabinet. The sources said the gunmen eventually withdrew, allowing the aircraft to depart with Mr. Hashem's daughter on board, after contacts with political and religious leaders. Lebanese army troops control security around the airport, located in Beirut's southern suburbs.

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W. German Greens team arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-member delegation representing the West German Greens Party arrived in Amman Sunday for a three-day official visit to Jordan during which the delegation members are expected to hold talks with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and other officials. Informed sources also said they may meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who also arrived in Amman Sunday. The delegation, which includes Miss Brigitte Heinrich and Jürgen Reents, members of the West German Parliament (Bundestag), is on the third leg of a Middle East tour which also took them to Syria and Lebanon. The delegation members will proceed to the occupied West Bank to gain firsthand information about the situation there and meet with Palestinian leaders if they were permitted by the Israeli authorities to enter the occupied territories.

Kuwaiti crown prince to visit U.S.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has accepted an invitation by President Reagan to visit the United States, a senior official announced Sunday. Abdul Aziz Al Oteiba, cabinet secretary-general, told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting a date for the visit had yet to be fixed.

AGFUND extends aid to Ethiopia

RIYADH (AP) — The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisation (AGFUND) announced Sunday that it was donating \$75,000 to help hunger-stricken Ethiopia. AGFUND is headed by Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz. This was his first decision after resigning as Saudi Arabia's special envoy to UNICEF last week to concentrate on AGFUND. The announcement said that the donation was being channelled through the Red Crescent of Saudi Arabia, the International Red Cross and UNICEF. AGFUND role is to support regional and international organisations in humanitarian and development projects, the announcement added.

Israel names two new ministers

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet approved the appointment of two of its members as ministers of religion and the interior Sunday, formally ending a dispute over the posts. Yosef Burg, head of the National Religious Party (NRP), was named minister of religious affairs and Yitzhak Perez of the Sephardi Tora Guardians (Shas) party, was appointed minister of the interior. Both have served in the three-month-old government as ministers without portfolio.

Heseltine's visit to India postponed

NEW DELHI (R) — A visit to India early next year by British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine has been postponed, according to a New Delhi newspaper which said the move may relate to activities of Sikh extremists in Britain. The Times of India said Sunday the postponement was presumably made at India's request. The Indian government has bitterly criticised Britain for not taking action against Sikh extremist leaders like Jagjit Singh Chavan based in London. India has said Mr. Chavan and his supporters back separatists blamed for the Oct. 31 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

'Pro-Israeli' killed in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — A Lebanese civilian has been shot dead in the South Lebanese town of Sidon by attackers opposed to his pro-Israeli views, Israeli military officials said Sunday. The officials did not identify the man, who they said was killed Saturday. About a dozen Lebanese who have expressed support for Israel have been killed in South Lebanon in recent months by resistance forces fighting the 30-month-old Israeli occupation, military officials said.

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Hussein, Arafat hold talks on 'new stage of Jordan-PLO dialogue'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks Sunday on what Palestinian sources described as "issues relating to laying the ground for a new stage of Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue."

The meeting between the two leaders was preceded by talks between Mr. Arafat and Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat earlier Sunday.

The Obaidat-Arafat meeting, which took place at the Guest Palace where the PLO leader is staying, was the first round of official talks between Jordan and the PLO after the convening of the 17th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last month.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived from Bahrain late Saturday night after a tour of Arab countries, was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud and senior PLO officials.

The PLO leader, who looked exhausted after his long Arab tour, told reporters that the new PLO Executive Committee, which was elected by the PNC session in Amman, has set up a special team "which will soon begin an open and frank dialogue with the Jordanian government on Jordan's proposal for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political initiative" to solve the Middle East problem.

His Majesty King Hussein, who opened the PNC session in Amman, in his inaugural speech called for a joint peace initiative based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which contains the concept of "exchange of land for peace" in the Middle East.

However, the PNC reiterated the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 because the resolution refers to the Palestinian problem as a refugee problem and does not provide for an independent Palestinian state, and charged the PLO Executive Committee with the task of studying the King's proposal.

PLO sources in Amman told the Jordan Times Sunday that the new team formed by the Executive Committee two weeks ago was "authorised to study the proposals and start talks with the Jordanian government on the King's call and a formula for future Jordanian-

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Palestinian relations." "The talks will take into consideration the King's view on future Jordanian-Palestinian political moves as well as resolutions adopted by successive PNC sessions, particularly those of the 16th and 17th sessions, regarding the PLO's relations with Jordan," the sources added.

Resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC, held in Algiers in 1983, endorsed the idea of establishing confederal ties between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state in the now Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The officials said that the committee that was formed to hold talks with Jordan includes the head of the PLO Political Department and Fateh Central Committee member, Farouk Kadoumi. Fateh Central Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Brigadier Abdul Razaq Al Yahia, the deported mayor of the Israeli-occupied town of Hebron, Fahd Al Qawasmeh and the leader of the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front (ALF), Abdul Rahim Ahmad.

Mr. Arafat was supposed to hold talks with Mr. Obaidat Sunday morning but the meeting was postponed because he was suffering from "a cold" and hence the meeting took place in the evening.

According to well-informed Palestinian sources, the talks between the PLO leader and Mr. Obaidat involved fixing a date for the start of a dialogue between Jordan and the newly-formed Palestinian committee.

During a state visit last March by Chinese President Li Xianan, a



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday held talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived here late Saturday night. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander in Chief, General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Saeb (Petra photo)

Jordan has not asked for Chinese military assistance, official reveals

By Salameh B. Ne'mati
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — China is ready to consider any Jordanian request for arms or military assistance but so far the Kingdom has not made any approach in this regard, a well-placed Chinese official said Sunday.

The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said: "Any request by the Kingdom will seriously be discussed by the Chinese government, not only militarily but also in other fields."

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, the official, commenting on the current five-day official visit by a high-level Chinese military delegation, said the visit came to further strengthen cooperation ties and bilateral relations.

During a state visit last March by Chinese President Li Xianan, a

senior Chinese official accompanying President Li said his country would assist Jordan in the formation of a People's Army.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Gong Defei had said then that China was ready to assist Jordan with what it could in the struggle to liberate the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The official said the visiting delegation, led by Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. He Zhengwen, in the Chinese People's Liberation Army, will leave Amman Wednesday for Oman where they are expected to hold talks on military cooperation.

The seven-member Chinese delegation was received Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein and Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other military officials.

China has good relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Chinese officials have recently met with PLO officials in Peking.

It is very likely that a meeting might take place between the visiting Chinese delegation and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who arrived in Amman Sunday.

A Turkish armed forces delegation is also on an official visit to Jordan for military cooperation talks with high-ranking Jordanian military officials. The delegation was received Saturday by Gen. Sharif Zaid at the army headquarters.

The Chinese delegation Sunday visited the Martyr's Monument and the Royal Military Academy. They were later guests at a dinner banquet held in their honour by Army Inspector General Maj. Gen. Ahmad Ala'eddin.

Soviets prepare grand funeral for Ustinov

MOSCOW (R) — Preparations were in full swing Sunday for the funeral of Dmitry Ustinov, one of the most powerful men in the Kremlin, while thousands of Soviet citizens paid homage to his body lying in state.

The 76-year-old marshal and former defence minister who died on Thursday, will be buried in front of the red brick wall of the Kremlin in a state funeral that will be shown live on television throughout the Soviet Union.

According to precedent, his former colleagues in the ruling Communist Party politburo will turn out in the bitter cold to pay their last respects.

Marshal Ustinov, who died of a heart attack two months after falling ill with pneumonia, was quickly replaced as defence minister by a career soldier, First Deputy Minister Sergei Sokolov.

But unlike his predecessor, Marshal Sokolov has no prominent political record and there were no signs he could expect a seat on the all-powerful politburo.

Obeidat sends cables

On Saturday, Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat sent a cable to Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov expressing heartfelt condolences and those of the cabinet ministers on the death of Marshal Ustinov.

Mr. Obaidat also sent a congratulatory cable to Marshal Sokolov on his appointment as defence minister.

In his cable Mr. Obaidat also wished the new minister every success in his new post and the Soviet people further progress and prosperity.

"I take this opportunity to emphasise the feelings of friendship between our two countries, wishing you and the Soviet people every happiness and progress," Mr. Obaidat said in his cable.

Latent suspicions, discord emerge from OIC conference in Sana'a

By Ali Mahmoud
The Associated Press

SANA'A — Hush-hush deliberations of the Islamic foreign ministers conference were indicative of mutual suspicion and acrimonious discord among Arab and Iranian participants, according to reports surfacing here Sunday.

The five-day conference was ended Saturday night with a communique projecting a facade of harmony, but devoid of any real accord on sensitive issues, mainly the Iran-Iraq war and Egypt's return to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Reviewing their notebooks, conference sources reports and Arab diplomats cited the following telling anecdotes: — Iranian and a number of Arab delegates tried to enter Sana'a at the outset of the conference with pistols and sub-machine guns for "self-defence."

Yemeni officials objected and seized these weapons, arguing that security precautions and safety of the delegates were Yemen's responsibility. — Yemeni security officials were grumbling Saturday because one

Iranian bodyguard had frisked the press centre's sofas and chairs moments before his Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati walked in to give a press conference.

— Mr. Velayati refused to answer reporters' questions in Arabic, which he is known to speak fluently, and also rejected appeals by Arab journalists for translation from Persian into Arabic. Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, Ali Shams Ardakani, acted as interpreter from Persian into English. One Saudi Arabian reporter stood up and shouted "Velayati, you are Muslim..." speak Arabic, language of the Quran," Mr. Velayati and Mr. Ardakani ignored this.

— Mr. Velayati was quoted as telling unidentified diplomats that he deliberately spoke in Persian to avoid Arab reporters whose countries were sympathetic with Iraq in its war with Iran.

— The Libyan foreign minister, Ali Abdul Salam Tureiki, told Kuwaiti reporters that he never shook hands or held a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. But the Egyptian minister confirmed to reporters that the handshake and greeting did take place, prompting the Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Qabas

to report in a frontpage banner headline that "Libya flirted with Egypt" during the Sana'a conference.

Libya and Egypt have been locked in a virulent war of words over ideological issues, with Egypt trying to block the political assassination attempts of Libyan exiles allegedly instigated by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

— Asked to state Libya's position on the Soviet intervention of Afghanistan, Mr. Tureiki merely said that "American imperialism has been trying to sneak into Afghanistan against the will of its people and legitimate government."

— Mr. Tureiki avoided reference to the Soviets in that country. — Iran asked the conference to re-expect Egypt because of its U.S.-sponsored treaty links with Israel and Egyptian diplomat Omran Al Shafai told Mr. Velayati to "quit auctioneering or we will distribute to conference delegates a document on cooperation between Iran and Israel."

— Mr. Shafai said the document proved that Iran was importing arms from the Jewish state.

Mr. Velayati never raised the subject again.

Arkhipov concludes Peking visit with trade agreement and talks with Zhao

PEKING (R) — Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov rounded off his working talks successfully in Peking Sunday with agreement to sign a long-term Sino-Soviet trade pact, then met briefly with Chinese Premier, Zhao Ziyang.

Chinese Television gave no details but showed Mr. Arkhipov greeting Mr. Zhao with great goodwill and embracing his old acquaintance Vice Premier Wan Li after talks which have brought the two countries closer than for over 20 years.

Mr. Arkhipov had the last of three rounds of discussions with Vice-Premier Yao Yilin earlier Sunday after which a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters that the two sides will sign a 1986-90 trade agreement in the first half of 1985 (See page 7).

They also agreed in principle to set up a joint commission on the economy, trade, science and technology, he said.

The visit of Mr. Arkhipov and his high-level delegation has concentrated on how best to develop economic and trade ties, putting to one side, for the moment at least, the continuing political problems which beset Sino-Soviet relations.

Moscow has refused to accept Peking's assurances that its growing political and military contacts with Washington have no strategic overtones.

China says there can be no hope of better Sino-Soviet relations in the political field unless the Soviet Union agrees to end its support for Hanoi, withdraws from Afghanistan and reduces its forces along the Chinese border.

But Mr. Arkhipov's visit has steered clear of these contentious issues and Western diplomats said Chinese officials told them Mr. Zhao was not prepared to spoil the atmosphere of the visit by repeating China's three demands.

China and the Soviet Union fell out over 20 years ago following a bitter ideological dispute which boiled down to China's refusal to acknowledge the Kremlin as the fount of communist wisdom.

China's recent unorthodox Marxist economic reforms have again drawn criticism from the Kremlin.

However, this aspect also was missing during Mr. Arkhipov's trip and after some courtesy meetings Monday his team leaves on a provincial tour to see the reforms in action.

UNIFIL may play major role in southern Lebanon

NAQOURA, Lebanon (AP) — The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been criticised as weak, ineffectual, and biased during the six years it has spent among the tangle of Israeli, Lebanese, and Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon. But as Israel prepares to end its 30-month occupation, the blue-beretted U.N. soldiers look more and more like the best hope for keeping the area quiet.

Whatever agreement Israel and Lebanon reach when they resume their military-level talks at this border town after the holidays, it is certain to call for UNIFIL to play a major security role, either in its present enclave near the Israeli border or further to the north. If there is no agreement, the U.N. force could be disbanded.

UNIFIL came to South Lebanon in 1978 after the Israeli invasion of that year. Its mission has not changed — to confirm Israel's complete withdrawal after the invasion, establish a region free of fighting, and assist the Lebanese government in restoring sovereignty over the South, according to UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel.

It hasn't been able to accomplish any of these goals very well. When Israel pulled its army out in 1978 after UNIFIL arrived in the south, it handed part of the area over to Lebanese militia trained, staffed, supplied and supported by Tel Aviv. UNIFIL was allowed only token positions in the militia-held section of the South.

The 1982 Israeli invasion, when thousands of Israeli tanks and troops rolled through the UNIFIL area on their way north, and the occupation since has made UNIFIL's difficult job almost impossible. "It's a very unusual situation — sharing land, with an occupation

been wounded.

The U.N. force does not try to stop Israeli army patrols by force because its mandate does not allow such fighting. By agreement, the Israelis pass freely in uniform. But UNIFIL does stop the Israeli-backed militiamen, and requires the many civilian-clad Israeli intelligence agents in the South to show identity cards.

"UNIFIL is a peacekeeping mission and not a peace-enforcing mission," said one UNIFIL source.

The UNIFIL source said there have been no "overt conflicts" with the Israelis.

But tensions between the two armies do occur. Early this month during an Israeli security operation in a string of Shiite Muslim villages in the UNIFIL area, an Israeli soldier fired over the head of a French UNIFIL soldier at a checkpoint, Goksel said. The French soldier returned fire over the Israeli's head and the dispute was resolved by officers on the scene.

Last month an Israeli patrol tried to search a French UNIFIL checkpoint in the same area. Residents said a French soldier placed a French flag on the road in front of his post and "told the Israelis that whoever steps on the flag will be a dead man." The Israeli patrol left.

The UNIFIL area appears much safer and more prosperous than other parts of the South, which has been hit hard by the fighting and by an economic depression brought on by its isolation from the rest of the country.

Shops selling stereos, cameras and tape recorders as well as cafes have sprung up throughout the area to serve the international troops, each of whom is paid one dollar and 28 cents per day in addition to his salary from his own government.



KING TOURS ARMY WORKSHOPS: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, paid a visit Sunday morning to the central armed forces machinery workshops. The King was briefed by the workshops director on the organisation and duties performed by these workshops. The King also toured the main workshop where he reviewed the development and modernisation of some machinery, carried out by Jordan Armed Forces engineers and technicians. The King also inspected the progress of work at the various technical sections of the workshops. Accompanying the King on his tour was the Commander-in-Chief of the Jordan Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo).

Iran's Kurds switch to urban warfare

By Trevor Wood
Reuters

TEHRAN — Kurdish rebels in north-west Iran have switched to urban guerrilla warfare after suffering what officials say was a heavy defeat in the rugged mountains of Kurdistan.

Hassan Daqiqi, commander of the Revolutionary Guard forces entrusted with the task of crushing the rebels, said they switched to urban guerrilla after they were driven out of their mountain retreats.

He told local reporters government forces had killed 412 guerrillas and liberated 84 villages in the past six months. He gave no figures for government casualties.

Daqiqi's statement last week was official acknowledgement that fighting continues in the area, two months after authorities said they had broken the back of the

rebellion.

In the past month, the autonomy-seeking guerrillas ambushed and killed a district governor and also killed a government supporter in his home, while government forces killed nine rebels in three separate clashes, according to official reports.

The area bordering Iraq and Turkey is closed to foreign journalists and diplomats, but travellers spoke of continuing tension in the region.

Daqiqi said rebel leaders decided to form an urban organisation at a recent meeting held in an Iraqi village just across the border.

"They admitted the failure of their military plans and acknowledged they had to adopt new policies because of their inability to challenge the Islamic Republic militarily," he said.

The travellers quoted an eye-

witness as saying that in one incident a guerrilla cut the ear of a soldier in broad daylight in the middle of a town then calmly walked away.

In another incident cited by diplomats, one Revolutionary Guard was captured and held prisoner for three days then released after the guerrillas had established he had not killed anyone.

Daqiqi said 600 rebels had surrendered in the past six months under a government amnesty. But a local official, quoted by the Tehran newspaper Kayhan, said the amnesty would be cancelled next March, after which those arrested "will receive the maximum sentences."

More than 6,000 rebels have given themselves in since revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the rebellion crushed five years ago, according to official reports.

Israel chosen as base for VOA broadcasts

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has asked the Israeli government to allow the Voice of America (VOA) to broadcast to the Soviet Union from Israel. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said Sunday. "We are engaged in negotiations on the matter," he told state radio. "Because of our economic situation... we have very little manoeuvring room nor the power to say no to specific requests from the United States."

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said President Reagan had sent a personal message to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres asking he approve the request. Mr. Peres' office declined immediate comment on the report.

Chalka Grossman, a parliamentarian from the left-wing opposition Mapam Party, said

such a move could jeopardise chances of reestablishing diplomatic relations with Moscow and increasing Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic ties with Israel at the outbreak of the 1967 Middle East war. Like his predecessors, Mr. Peres has called on Moscow to renew relations.

A U.S. embassy spokesman had no comment on reports Washington wanted to build a \$200-million VOA relay station in Israel to overcome Soviet jamming of U.S. broadcasts from Europe.

Soviet Georgia is only about 1,200 kilometres from northern Israel. Moscow is approximately 2,600 kilometres away, about the same distance as that between the Soviet capital and Paris.

Next move may be Israel's in Sharon-Time libel case

NEW YORK (AP) — With testimony completed in Ariel Sharon's \$50-million libel lawsuit against Time Inc., and the trial recessed for the holidays, the Israeli government may have the next move.

An Israeli cabinet meeting on Dec. 30 may determine what the federal jury will hear when it returns to the courtroom on Jan. 2.

The cabinet is to consider whether to release a secret appendix to a government inquiry that Time claims will prove its story about Mr. Sharon and the September 1982 massacre of hundreds of people at refugee camps in Israeli-occupied Lebanon.

Mr. Sharon's lawyers rested their case Thursday after six weeks of testimony. In a surprise move, Time also rested its case without calling any witnesses.

Mr. Sharon — Israel's defence minister at the time of the massacre and now the minister of industry and commerce — claims a Feb. 21, 1983, Time magazine cover story libeled him.

The article reported that he "discussed" with Lebanese Falangists the need for revenge for the assassination of the country's President-elect, Bashir Gemayel the day before Falangist militiamen massacred hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the refugee camps.

The article, "the verdict is guilty," reported on the findings of the Israeli inquiry into the mas-

sacre. Milton Gould, Mr. Sharon's chief attorney, said the article accused Mr. Sharon of "instigating, encouraging, condoning" the massacre.

Time denies the article made such an accusation and claims its report was substantially true. Time contends details of the Bikfaya meeting are in a secret portion of the Kahan Commission report, Appendix B.

Mr. Sharon, who testified that he never discussed revenge "with any Lebanese," says the details are not in the appendix.

The Israeli government has balked at releasing Appendix B for national security reasons.

On Dec. 30, the Israeli cabinet will discuss Mr. Sofer's request to allow Mr. Sharon's and Time's Israeli attorneys to examine the document and other secret papers.

Pending word from Israel, Mr. Sofer has withheld decision on Time's request for a directed verdict in its favour.

Another issue raised late last week may be resolved in Israel.

Time sought to have the testimony of Uri Dan, Mr. Sharon's former press spokesman, stricken from the record.

Mr. Dan, who was with Mr. Sharon at the Bikfaya meeting, testified there was no discussion of revenge but he would not give details, stating that as a former Israeli government official he was forbidden by law from doing so.

Kennedy arrives in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy arrived here Sunday for a five-day visit during which he will visit drought-hit areas and camps for Ethiopian and Sudanese refugees, a Sudanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Sen. Kennedy arrived from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at 0945 GMT and immediately headed for a meeting with Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri, according to Isam Hassan, director of the United States Affairs Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

Sen. Kennedy just ended a visit in Ethiopia during which he toured camps for Ethiopians hit by drought and famine.

During his visit in Sudan, Mr. Hassan said Sen. Kennedy will visit Kassala in eastern Sudan to inspect camps of Ethiopian refugees who fled the famine in their country.

Mr. Hassan said Sen. Kennedy will also visit drought-hit areas in Al Obeid in the Kordofan region. Sen. Kennedy is expected to leave Sudan on Thursday.

Changes spark no optimism about Mideast solutions in 1985

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — A government change in Israel and policy shifts in some key Arab capitals this year prompted faint hopes of fresh efforts to break deadlock in the Middle East.

But no one was betting that 1985 would be the year in which diverse Arab countries, Palestinians and Israel might finally find a formula for peace.

During 1984, a fragile coalition government took power in Israel, vowing to quit South Lebanon. Syria helped Lebanon find a political formula to end open civil war between factions, although periodic clashes continued.

Jordan restored relations with Egypt, shunned by most Arab states since it signed a 1979 peace pact with Israel, and called for an international Middle East peace conference.

A re-elected President Reagan said his 1982 Middle East peace

plan, rejected by Israel and treated with reserve by Arab states, remained on the table. But no fresh approaches emerged.

"The fact is that no one has any ideas," a Western diplomat said. "With no clear route mapped towards an overall settlement, Lebanon appeared the most likely area for progress in Arab-Israeli relations."

Israel and Lebanon began United Nations-sponsored talks in November on terms under which Israel would withdraw troops which invaded Lebanon in 1982 and are now concentrated in the South.

But the year drew to a close with the two sides far from reconciling Lebanon's insistence on deploying its army down to the border and Israel's demand that an Israeli-sponsored militia should play a major security role.

Western governments saw the commitment by new Prime Minister Shimon Peres to end Israel's occupation of South Lebanon as a hopeful sign on the Middle East

map during 1984.

Another was Lebanon's progress from bitter factional fighting, during which a U.S.-led Western peacekeeping force pulled out of Beirut, to an armed standoff — marred by periodic fighting — under a "national unity" government.

Syria, which keeps 40,000 troops in Lebanon, engineered the fragile reconciliation scheme after confirming its influence in Beirut by persuading President Amin Gemayel to scrap a U.S.-sponsored troop withdrawal accord with Israel.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad continued to lead the "hardline" Arab faction opposed to a deal with Israel and to ending ostracism of Egypt.

Jordan's decision to restore relations with Cairo was another policy shift which won applause in the West.

But the United States and Israel rejected a Jordanian proposal, made jointly by King Hussein and

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, for an international Middle East peace conference grouping Arab states, Israel, the big powers and the PLO.

The Reagan administration said such a gathering, which the Soviet Union and the U.N. support, would not yield results.

Washington called for direct Arab-Israeli talks to follow up the 1978 U.S.-sponsored Camp David accord which led to the Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

Jordan rejected this approach and Arab officials continued to accuse the United States of not pushing hard enough for concessions from Israel on its continued occupation and rapid settlement of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, seized during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Jordan's plan was based on "land for peace" — Israel trading Arab land for recognition of its right to exist on the lines of the U.N. Security Council resolution 242 of 1967, which called for Is-

rael's withdrawal from occupied territories.

Jordan and PLO agreed in principle on future confederation. This gave the Palestine National Council (PNC) a venue for a November meeting strongly opposed by Syria and Damascus-backed, anti-Arafat Palestinian groups.

The Amman session reaffirmed Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO, which has been weakened by factional fighting since being driven out of Beirut in 1982.

There was talk of a Jordan-Egypt-Arafat alliance but no clear sign where it might lead. Western diplomats feel prospects for Jordan's proposal are slender.

"They are back in the same old impasse," one said. "The Arabs are not going to budge on the issue of self-determination for the Palestinians and Israel is not going to budge on relinquishing territory."

The diplomats say there is no sign that President Reagan will produce a new Middle East plan, evidently preferring to keep in

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 17:00 Koran 17:10 Cartoons 17:25 Biscuits 17:50 Children's Programme 18:20 News in French 18:55 Folklore Programme 19:00 Local Programme 19:30 Programme Review 19:40 Music 19:50 News Programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Local Comedy 21:00 Arabic Series 23:00 News in Arabic 23:10 Series Contd.		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITION * Palestinian national exhibition of documents at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24). CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 42023 Spanish Cultural Centre 34049 Turkish Cultural Centre 37977 Hays Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alla information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 89 53250, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 09:30 Aqaba (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 09:55 Beirut (RJ) 09:55 Bahrain (RJ) 09:55 Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:10 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ) 10:20 Beirut (RJ) 10:40 Kuwait (RJ) 10:50 Cairo (MS) 10:50 Jeddah, Medina (SV) 10:50 Balgrade, Islamabad (U) 10:50 Bangkok (RJ) 10:50 Cairo (RJ) 10:50 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 10:50 Cairo (RJ) 10:50 Baghdad (RJ) 10:50 Cairo (RJ) 10:50 Baghdad (RJ)		EMERGENCIES Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 675338 Medical pharmacy 770910 Nairoch pharmacy 23672 University pharmacy 44554 Al-Jalil pharmacy 771560 Lu'Al pharmacy 666417 Rawabid pharmacy 666133 TAXIS: Taxina taxi 44660 Nidjal taxi 39655 Taxi taxi 666417 Khalid taxi 23715 Kurdi taxi 841309 Wadiah taxi 812454	
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RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 09:00 News Summary 10:00 Morning Show 11:00 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 12:30 News Summary 13:00 Pop Session 13:30 News Bulletin 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 Over a Cup of Tea 15:00 Sports Round-up 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Did Favoursites 17:00 Classical Show Case 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Sports Round-up 18:30 Arabian Nights 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary		MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664340. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.		DEPARTURES 05:45 Cairo (RJ) 07:15 Beirut (RJ) 08:15 Aqaba (RJ) 08:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, Chicago (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 14:40 Doha, Muscat (RJ) 16:40 Jeddah, Medina (SV) 17:25 Istanbul, Balgrade (U) 19:30 Kuwait (RJ) 19:30 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ) 19:40 Dhahran (RJ) 19:40 Doha, Muscat (RJ) 20:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:15 Jeddah (RJ) 20:15 Dubai (RJ) 21:10 Baghdad (RJ) 22:28 Cairo (MS) 23:30 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)		GENERAL Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone: Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 11 Repair service 11	
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz. 06:00 VOA Morning News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Sports Round-up 20:00 News 20:30 Rock Solid 24:00 World News: The World Today 06:00 VOA Morning News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Sports Round-up 20:00 News 20:30 Rock Solid 24:00 World News: The World Today		PRAYER TIMES 05:07 Fajr 06:35 (Sunrise) Duha 11:58 Dhuhur 14:19 Asr 16:36 Maghreb 18:04 Isha		WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Scattered medium and high clouds will appear with southeasterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg.C. Amman 10/22 Aqaba 10/22 Deserta 2/16 Jordan Valley 13/23 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in file per kg. Apple (double red) 240/180 Apple (golden) 240/180 Apple (stark) 240/180 Banana (Mukammar) 240/210 Beans 360/300 Broad beans 680/600 Cabbage 140/100 Chestnut 650/600 Carrot 130/100 Cauliflower 250/200 Cucumber (large) 600/500 Cucumber (small) 600/500 Eggplant (large) 190/150 Eggplant (small) 200/150 Garlic 180/150 Grapefruit 140/100 Lemon 120/90 Mallow 300/250 Marrow (large) 140/100 Marrow (small) 280/250 Onion (dry) 170/140 Onion (green) 140/100 Okra 650/550 Oranges (Abu Surra) 240/180 Oranges (Shamouni) 190/160 Parsley 80/80 Peas (American) 540/480 Pepper (sweet) 230/180 Pepper (hot green) 230/180 Potatoes (local) 190/160 Quince 170/130 Radishes 90/60 Spinach 110/80 Tomatoes 300/200 Turnip 140/100	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zaben to discuss launch of Arabsat

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Communication Ministers Council, Tuesday will discuss with Director General of the Arab Satellite Corporation Ali Al Mashat issues pertaining to launching Arabsat.

Team to hold talks with Saudi bankers

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Dbeidat agreed, during a cabinet session held Sunday, that a Jordanian delegation should leave for Saudi Arabia to hold talks with officials at the Saudi Bank for Development regarding financing the teaching hospital at Yarmouk University.

Committee continues budget debate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Financial Committee, chaired by Khaled Al Haj Hassan, resumed its debate Sunday on the 1985 draft budget law. Attending the discussions were Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and Budget Department Director General Ali Gharybeh.

CVDB grants loans for service projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) Saturday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi and decided to grant JD 162,607 to five municipal and village councils in Irbid, Karak and Amman Governorates. The loans will be used for service projects, including asphalted roads, constructing embankments and acquisition of land.

Library planned for Deir Allah

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi agreed on the allocation of JD 2,000 for building a general library at Deir Allah in the Jordan Valley. Department of Libraries, Documentations and National Archives Director Ahmad Sharkas said that the library will concentrate on child care information through the provision of pamphlets and books concerning children and education.

Agriculture survey reviews afforestation

AMMAN (Petra) — A study issued by the agriculture information office at the Ministry of Agriculture highlights the development of afforestation in Jordan. The survey says that approximately 30,000 dunums of land are now planted with forest trees compared to about 3,000 dunums in the 1950's. The survey also reviewed the prevention of soil erosion through afforestation projects.



PARACHUTING PRINCESS — Her Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, decorated Her Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein Sunday with her wings after she had completed a parachuting course. Attending the ceremony were Her Highness Princess Alia, Her Highness Princess Zain, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordan Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of the special forces officers. Princess Aisha is the first Jordanian woman to qualify as a parachutist. (Petra photo)

Badran signs implementation deal for bilateral trade protocol with Egypt

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran who is also the head of a Jordanian economic delegation to Egypt, returned home Sunday after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he signed an agreement for the implementation of a bilateral trade protocol.

Mr. Badran said that the Jordanian delegation held talks with the Egyptian ministers of external trade, housing and construction about goods which might be exchanged between the two countries, including Jordanian cement.

Mr. Badran said that the Egyptian side has shown a great deal

of interest in Jordanian goods, especially chemical fertilisers. The delegation, comprising the directors of the commercial centres, the South Cement Company in addition to officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is still in Cairo to finalise the technical side of the signing and to pay visits to industrial and commercial institutes there, Mr. Badran added.

At the beginning of December, an Egyptian delegation visited Amman and signed the first phase for implementing the \$30 million bilateral trade agreement for the year 1985. The delegation visited Jordanian factories in order to choose 30 different industrial items as stipulated in the trade protocol which was signed earlier in Cairo.

The selected Jordanian items, due to be exported to Egypt, ranged from textile products, refrigerators and leather products to detergents and electric heaters. The agreement, which was signed right after the normalisation of full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan last September, includes \$7.5 million worth of tax-exempted Jordanian goods exported to Egypt via Al Nasr Company, \$2.5 million goods which will be exported via the Jordanian Commerce Centre in Cairo while the other \$20 million will be open for various Egyptian private and public sector companies to import.

The trade protocol also comprised a "barter agreement" which allows for equal goods transaction between public sector export and import companies in both countries.

The agreement constituted a substantial quantitative shift in the history of bilateral economic and trade relations. The volume of trade between Egypt and Jordan prior to the breaking of bilateral relations in 1979 had never exceeded three to four million dollars, and it is hoped that the volume of trade between the two countries will reach \$150 million in the near future.

As for the trade protocol agreement, the Egyptian side did not impose any restrictions on exporting Egyptian products to Jordan, and Jordanian import companies are free to choose the quantity and the quality of the Egyptian goods.

Cement deal delayed

A one-million tonne Jordanian cement deal has been delayed due to a price dispute, the Egyptian side, represented by the Cement Supply Bureau has offered \$36 million for the cement while the South Cement Company (SCC) of Jordan did not accept the price. However, the two sides are negotiating to find out the proper price for the signing of the cement deal.

Yarmouk, Iraqi university sign scientific agreement

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University Sunday signed a cultural and scientific agreement with Saladdin University of Iraq. Under the agreement teaching staff from both universities will pay long visits to the other either for teaching purposes or to undertake research on subjects of mutual concern.

Teaching staff from both universities will also exchange short visits in order to deliver lectures, hold seminars or to supervise and discuss higher studies' thesis or to exchange expertise.

The agreement also provides for allocating a number of seats in each university in the field of higher studies to students from the other. Both universities will also accept students wishing to receive

technical or administrative training, in addition to organising visits by students from either university to the other.

Under the agreement, both universities will also exchange publications, scientific bulletins and study plans in addition to results of research papers and thesis. The universities will also propose an executive programme of two to three years duration which will be signed in due course.

The agreement was signed by Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran and Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Shamsheh, dean of the Faculty of Administration, on behalf of the president of Saladdin University.

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THE AL HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE HANDICAPPED wishes to thank the management and employees of the Marriott Hotel/Amman for hosting and for the care they have given to the society bazaar, held in the hotel under the patronage of His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid and Princess Majida.

Factory closes after food poisoning cases

Standardisation department investigates milk products, quality control measures

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Director of the Department of Standardisation and Metrology Salah Eddin Taha said Sunday that his department will be adopting new measures to control the quality of food products, especially milk products, in the local market in a way that these measures would still support the animal wealth in the Kingdom.

The statement by Mr. Taha came after several citizens were reported to have been struck down with food poisoning after consuming milk products sold in the local market last week.

Speaking at a meeting attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Supply, Mr. Taha said that the new measures, to be implemented by the department, include imposing on milk factories to add sterilisation units to the produced milk to prolong its validity period up to six months instead of the previous two-day validity of the pasteurised milk.

Pure, fresh milk

He said that factories producing fresh milk will not be allowed to include milk powder in their products and that these fresh milk products will be sold in the market in blue-coloured bottles for distinction.

As for milk manufactured from milk powder, this will be made available in a different container even if fresh milk was added to this product. Mr. Taha said that milk powder products will be sold at the same price as the powdered and fresh milk mixture.

Six people were treated for milk poisoning last week, caused by milk that was not properly sterilised. In order for the produced milk to be sterile, it should be boiled at 140 degrees centigrade.

However, one factory had produced a batch of packaged milk which was not properly sterilised and which subsequently caused the poisoning of the six people. The products of that particular factory were withdrawn from the market and about 30,000 litres of milk were destroyed.

Mr. Taha said the factory which produced the spoiled milk was shut down by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

He said that meanwhile, the department will give priority to the development of the agricultural and animal wealth sector in the Kingdom when drawing out future policies and plans.

Mr. Taha said that fresh milk sold in the market at double the price of the powdered milk which is why many factories started mixing powdered milk with fresh milk and then sold the product as fresh milk. He said the problem will accelerate in spring as milk production is expected to increase by 35 per cent.

The department's new measures and regulations on milk producing factories will be implemented immediately, Mr. Taha concluded.

Children's development, education should be given priority, Sharaf says

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The children of the Arab World are victims of their societies and in order to remove children's traumas, we, as responsible people, need to analyse and understand their psychological problems, Minister of Information Laifa Sharaf said Saturday.

Mrs. Sharaf, who was speaking at a panel discussion on "The Impact of Current Political Changes on Children in the Arab World," also said that we need to develop children's text books, teaching methods and children's literature in an attempt to make children trust their society and their own selves.

She added that priorities in the development plans are still inverted and that children's development and educational methods are far behind on the list of priorities. Thus, balanced development plans are needed, she said. Mrs. Sharaf commented, "It seems as if we are making our children carry the burden of our political and military failures; our society lacks a sense of joy and happiness, therefore we are unable to make our children feel and experience happiness."

The minister went on to say that the method of dealing with children should be abolished and started again from the roots. We should also teach them how to become true patriots through developing their sense of patriotism, so as to make them able to defend themselves and to face their future challenges, she said.

Mrs. Sharaf said "our aim is to raise the level of child care, to raise the level of education and to build playgrounds through which a child can reach satisfaction and have a nice childhood."

The minister stressed the fact that if a child is not brought up in such a way and in an environment where respects himself and his ideas, he will fail to carry the burden of the "current political changes."

Dr. Dmmar Jibril, professor of

psychology at the University of Jordan, discussed the psychological impacts of the current political changes on children. He defined the political factors that have an immediate effect on the child as being war, children's lack of freedom of expression, and poverty in terms of clothes, nutrition and sleep.

He added that up until now, there are no scientific studies that deal with Jordanian children's reaction to any political influences. He said that in 1978, the faculty conducted a research analysis on children's paintings and toys and eight basic colours were used and all the paintings reflected happiness and the children's love for their parents and nature."

In 1982, when war broke out in Lebanon and we repeated the same study, to our shock, the only drawings we saw were Merkava tanks at Ein El Hilweh refugee camp, and the children used the same eight colours used earlier. Thus, we can conclude that political changes have influenced the children's thought and creativity, but on the other hand they still

used the same eight basic colours. Therefore, Dr. Jibril concluded that the children have "emptied their fear in these drawings."

Mr. Hassan Shawarab, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) director in Amman, said that the economic factors in our societies have a direct impact on children's physiological needs and growth. He added that if the Arab World adopted only "simple technological methods", such as immunisation programmes, and encouraging breast feeding, child mortality rates could be halved in a period of five years.

Mrs. Nimreh Tannous, consultant of social affairs at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, discussed some of the political, social and military aspects and related them to the effects on children. She added that a lot of Jordanian children are victims of hatred, that they lack a sense of patriotism and experience, enmity towards their society due to the fact that a lot of them were evicted from their land and separated from their families.

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France takes economic cue from the U.S.

French attitudes on channelling money into small businesses have been changing, as risk capital techniques imported from the U.S. become more popular. David Marsh reports.

PARIS — "In France, with the development of risk capital funds, people have always said that too much money is chasing too few projects," says Mr. Bernard Simon-Barboux, assistant managing director responsible for corporate finance at the nationalised Banque Indosuez. "In fact it's not true — the abundance of funds makes the projects possible."

He is talking about the change in French attitudes on channelling finance into small businesses. Unashamedly based on risk capital techniques imported from the U.S., the new approach has been reflected this year by an explosion of efforts by French banks and investment institutions.

Along with several foreign entrants, they have been rushing to establish funding schemes for entrepreneurs setting up or expanding in high growth industrial and service industries.

Banque Indosuez, together with its parent company, the Compagnie Financière de Suez group, has in recent months launched four separate risk capital funding schemes to support companies in France, South East Asia and the U.S.

The idea, according to Mr. Simon-Barboux, is to establish a global network of venture capital schemes facilitating international technology transfers — for instance, European companies wishing to start joint ventures with partners in the Far East, or Californian groups wanting to start high-tech operations in Europe.

The Suez group is actively seeking a more industrially oriented approach, in line with the belief of the new chairman, Mr. Jean Peyrelevade, that it has in the past not contributed enough to strengthening the country's corporate fabric.

It is clearly following in the footsteps of the other state-owned French financial group, Paribas, which set up a San Francisco-based U.S. risk capital fund 2½ years ago and has also been making efforts to strengthen such ventures in France.

Other institutions are also jumping on to the French venture capital bandwagon. Mr. Gerard Tardy, in charge of a new French risk capital group just set up by Citicorp of the U.S., is looking to channel around \$20 million (FFr180 million) into ventures in France over the next four years. "This is an emerging market — I am confident that it will expand," he says. "There is a lot of money around, and very few professionals."

Citicorp, which has been in the U.S. risk capital business for 20 years and started a successful U.K. operation in 1980, is examining two or three French dossiers a week involving businesses in fields ranging from computer distribution to gastronomic fast food.

It aims to build up slowly with just one or two investments over the next 12 months — at an average FF5 million a time — but to accelerate thereafter, benefiting from exchanges of information with other European risk capital ventures being set up in West Germany and Italy.

A new focus for French banks is the promotion of management buy-outs. This form of entrepreneurial activity has been neglected in France up to now. But it could hold the key for passing on control to management when a

French company owner dies or quits his business — a common cause of bankruptcy in France — or for spinning off parts of large concerns to small, motivated groups of managers.

Although the moves, according to venture capital experts, do not go far enough, the environment for management buy-outs has been improved by legislative changes put into effect this summer. As a result, managers can claim personal tax credits for up to FF100,000 of interest paid on business start-up loans, while fiscal and legal requirements on bought-out companies have been relaxed.

Government officials say that buy-outs are being studied as a possible way of spinning-off some profitable parts of the bankrupt Creusot-Loire engineering group. A FF40 million management buy-out fund, Cofidic, started earlier this year by Banque Paribas and Credit du Nord, has already put into effect around half a dozen operations, and is studying 30 to 40 dossiers, some include spin-offs from nationalised companies such as the Compagnie Générale d'Electricité group. "There is a lot of demand," says Mr. David Dautremes, the Credit du Nord chairman.

Investors in Industry (3i), the U.K. financial group owned by nine London and Scottish banks and the Bank of England, which set up a French subsidiary in 1982, made seven investments in French companies in the first half of 1984. The average stake is FF13.5.

Examples include taking a 15 per cent stake in a small printing company, Imprim, and buying a 25 per cent share in a food concern, Comed, to boost business development, particularly links with British distributors.

Mr. Michel Biegala, managing director of 3i's French operations, believes Anglo-Saxon financial expertise — plus the fact that his group is not state controlled — puts 3i in a "unique" position to benefit from the growing French venture capital market.

The Suez group, as a newcomer to the venture capital field, has put emphasis on collaboration, both in terms of expertise and in fund-raising.

Banque Indosuez's recently announced U.S. venture, Suez Technology Fund, is being managed in co-operation with Sequoia, the Palo Alto-based risk capital concern.

Charterhouse of the U.K. is a partner in Indosuez's domestic management buy-out fund, set up also with Credit National and Banque Industrielle et Mobilière Privée. Liquidity for both these two and the third South-East Asian venture is being provided, along with the Suez group itself, by French and foreign institutional investors and some industrial companies.

French institutions such as insurance groups, pension funds and investment arms of large companies now consider that one per cent to two per cent of their portfolio should be placed directly in technology-linked business ventures, says Mr. Simon-Barboux.

The \$30 million U.S. fund is already more than two-thirds subscribed with some of the money coming from two of Indosuez's wealthy, Hong Kong-based clients. — Financial Times news feature.

Developing Asia hit where it really hurts

WHEN STRONG economies catch a cold, the weaker ones risk pneumonia.

So while the recession has caused a lot of problems in the industrialised "North", it has apparently dealt much harsher blows to the developing nations in Asia, according to a new ILO study.

It finds that in rural Asia small and poor farmers are more hard-pressed than ever.

In the cities, workers in manufacturing bear the main brunt of a slowdown in production through stagnant or falling real wages, layoffs, retrenchments and withdrawal of benefits.

Moreover, certain measures taken by Asian governments to contain the shock of recession, such as cuts in public expenditure, reduction of subsidies on goods and services consumed by the poor and tax hikes, are likely to hurt millions of economically vulnerable people throughout the region.

Prices tumble

A major root cause for this tale of woe lies in the slackening demand in the "North" for Asia's products — which has pushed down export prices dramatically.

For primary commodities the dive started in 1981. For non-food agricultural products and non-ferrous metals, however, the market already showed signs of weakening in 1980. The decline continued through 1982 with increasing momentum for such items as palm oil, cotton, timber and rubber.

The drop in prices was so sharp in some cases that it could not be offset by increased exports. Thus in Thailand, export of rice in 1982 was 4.6 per cent higher in volume compared with that in 1981, but the value of rice exports was 4.7 per cent less.

Slowdown

The industrial sector also feels

the pinch. Singapore's shipbuilding as well as its electrical and electronic industry reported a dearth of new orders during the second half of 1981. In the following year, the slump hit the textiles, garments and sawn timber industries which suffered production declines in the face of growing restrictions by major industrial countries and sluggish export demand.

Falling exports, dwindling prices and deteriorating terms of trade have slowed down production particularly in South-East and East Asia, where Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have experienced fairly sharp declines in the growth of real GNP.

South Asia appears to have been less affected where only Bangladesh and India recorded substantial slowdown in the growth of GNP in 1982.

There has been a worsening of the balance of payments position in most of the developing countries in Asia, the study reports. For instance, Malaysia's trade

balance surplus of \$2.3 million in 1980 slid into a deficit of \$330 million, and the current account deficit increased from \$385 million to a staggering \$2.9 billion. During the same time, Indonesia's current account balance changed from a surplus of \$2.8 billion to a deficit of \$1.2 billion.

Lessons learned

The findings show that countries dependent on exports of a narrow range of primary commodities have been among the hardest hit. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are examples.

Yet another development lesson that emerges from the study is that the "outward-looking" economies of South-East Asia were at first more severely affected by the recession than the more "inward-looking" economies of South Asia. But they bounced back faster, nevertheless.

This is illustrated by the contrasting experience of India and

the Republic of Korea on the one hand and Singapore on the other. Korea has been pursuing an export-led growth strategy but its manufacturing industry has created strong linkages with the domestic market as well. Industries in India have also developed a solid connection with the market at home. Despite its diversified production base, Singapore has encountered greater adjustment difficulties because of its heavy reliance on North-bound exports.

The study observes that "while export orientation enables a country to benefit from an expansion of world trade, it may make the country too vulnerable to instabilities in the world market, particularly if the export industries are not sufficiently rooted in the domestic market."

Interdependence

Government response to the recession has consisted mainly of

policies towards expansion of exports and/or restriction of imports, increased borrowing, promotion of structural change, reduced expenditure and tax reforms, the study notes.

The solution of the problem globally, however, lies in the recognition of the inextricable interdependence of the industrialised and developing countries and the need to change their relationship to permit harmonious cooperation for development of both.

As ILO Director-General Francis Blanchard put it: "On the one hand, the prosperity of the North — as source of capital and technology and as market for primary products — is indispensable for the 'South.' On the other hand, the economic growth of the 'North' hangs on the raw materials, market and, consequently, the stability of the 'South.' Today, the destiny of part of our globe cannot be unlinked from a strategy based on a one-world concept." — ILO report.

New priorities in U.S. aid programme to 'Third World'

The United States may give the "Third World" more arms and more economic aid designed to help U.S. businessmen in Reagan's second term. It may give less for agriculture, education, health care, housing and family planning.

By Bruce Stokes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Asia, Africa and Latin America, long the stepchildren of U.S. foreign policy, will take on new importance in the Reagan administration's second term. But if experience over the last four years is any guide, this new focus will be a mixed blessing for the poor of the "Third World."

In the week following President Reagan's reelection, the State Department and the National Security Council reportedly suggested to the White House that the United States should take the lead in "building the economies of the Third World."

These new initiatives will involve a systematic reorientation of family planning, food aid and economic assistance programmes. There will be a new emphasis on encouraging free enterprise and far greater linkage between U.S. business interests and U.S.-funded economic development efforts in the "Third World."

Mr. Michel Biegala, managing director of 3i's French operations, believes Anglo-Saxon financial expertise — plus the fact that his group is not state controlled — puts 3i in a "unique" position to benefit from the growing French venture capital market.

The Suez group, as a newcomer to the venture capital field, has put emphasis on collaboration, both in terms of expertise and in fund-raising.

Banque Indosuez's recently announced U.S. venture, Suez Technology Fund, is being managed in co-operation with Sequoia, the Palo Alto-based risk capital concern.

Charterhouse of the U.K. is a partner in Indosuez's domestic management buy-out fund, set up also with Credit National and Banque Industrielle et Mobilière Privée. Liquidity for both these two and the third South-East Asian venture is being provided, along with the Suez group itself, by French and foreign institutional investors and some industrial companies.

French institutions such as insurance groups, pension funds and investment arms of large companies now consider that one per cent to two per cent of their portfolio should be placed directly in technology-linked business ventures, says Mr. Simon-Barboux.

The \$30 million U.S. fund is already more than two-thirds subscribed with some of the money coming from two of Indosuez's wealthy, Hong Kong-based clients. — Financial Times news feature.

White House is seeking cuts in development assistance.

Whatever the new budget, much of it is likely to be used in ways that more directly benefit U.S. private business. In fiscal 1985, USAID's Economic Support Fund will dispense \$3.8 billion, mostly to help developing countries pay off their foreign loans, many of these from U.S. banks, and to pay for commodity imports, many of these from U.S. producers.

The President's Task Force on International Private Enterprise was set up in 1983 to examine how U.S. aid could be used to stimulate private enterprise and promote U.S. investment in, and trade with, developing countries. Its report, released in December 1984, urged that USAID adopt a clearly stated position that a dollar spent on the private sector is likely to aid "development" more than a dollar spent on the public sector.

The Task Force recommended that aid priority should be given to countries that sign bilateral investment treaties with the United States. In a move that it claimed would help both famine-stricken Africans and U.S. farmers facing declining prices, it proposed doubling U.S. food aid to the "Third World."

Change is also in store for more traditional foreign aid efforts. The Reagan administration is considering budget cuts which include elimination of all contributions to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the principal international agency combating the famine that now threatens many African nations.

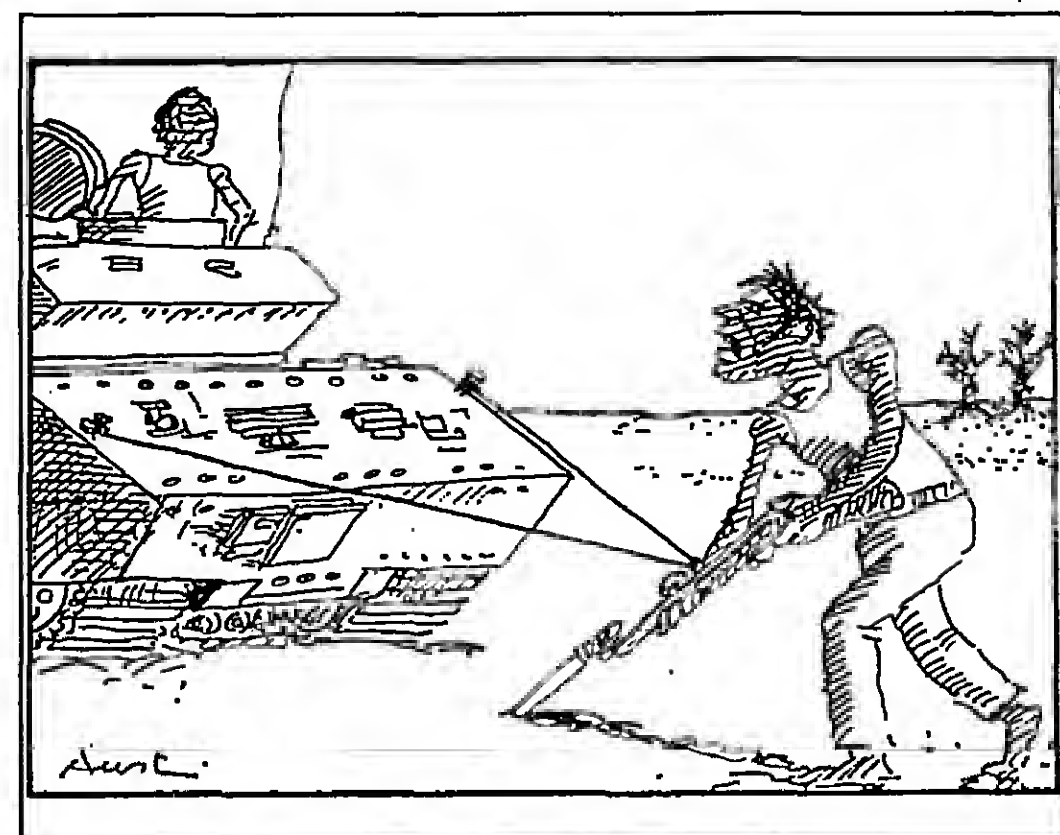
Moreover, in August 1984, the White House said it would stop funding international groups that support abortion as part of family planning programmes. As a result of potential cutbacks in U.S. support, the International Planned Parenthood Federation announced in December that it would have to cut its efforts by 30 per cent — a cut that could result in millions of unplanned and unwanted births in the "Third World." Family planning advocates expect that other agencies will also be denied funds.

The ability of the Reagan administration to reshape foreign aid will be tempered by the political process. There are strong political pressures from all sides. For example, the highly influential Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington-based think tank, called in a study released in early December for the abolition of USAID. It argues that "an economic aid programme can do little to promote long-term development."

If USAID is not eliminated, Heritage would remove requirements that money be spent on specific problems such as health or education, a move critics of the report suggest is a backdoor method of increasing military assistance. The report further suggests tying aid to "Third World" support of U.S. positions in the United Nations.

With domestic economic issues always a priority in Washington, relations with the "Third World" will continue to be of secondary importance. But U.S. businesses are increasingly interested in foreign markets. Asia, Africa and Latin America have growing strategic significance. And many conservatives are fervently committed to using U.S. aid as a tool for implementing U.S. policies abroad.

For these reasons, foreign aid is likely to take on new significance



"If the Americans are so advanced, how is it that they make such useless ploughs?" (Earthscan cartoon)

In a second Reagan administration. But much of this will be military aid and aid to business

— money expected to eventually help U.S. business. The basic human needs of the poor — for

food, housing, health care and education — may continue to be a low priority — Earthscan feature.

'Old Blue' saves a bird species, dies

By John Coomber
Reuter

WELLINGTON — Old Blue, the bird which saved the rare black robin from extinction, is missing presumed dead somewhere on the windswept Chatham Islands east of mainland New Zealand.

The news merited a government announcement in parliament, an indication of the high regard held for Old Blue.

Four years ago the black robin was the world's rarest bird. There were only five of them alive, and Old Blue named after the colour of the leg tag she wore, was the last fertile female.

Through her efforts and a unique programme of cross-fostering

developed by the New Zealand Wildlife Service, the species has been saved.

Wildlife officers are planning one more season of fostering robins' eggs to other species before leaving the birds to their own devices.

A team from the wildlife service is currently on the Chatham Islands, 850 kilometres east of the mainland, monitoring the bird's progress.

Of the 20 birds they left at the end of last summer 19 have been accounted for. The one missing was Old Blue.

She was 14 years old, a great-grandmother many times over, and apparently did not survive the winter.

"She was always a gregarious sort — quick to find a mate and quick to come to people, so we can only come to the conclusion that she is dead," wildlife officer Richard Anderson said.

But the bird service is far from gloomy. This season there are 12 nestlings. Four fledglings and the prospects of another seven eggs hatching, which would make a total population of well over 30 to take into 1985.

"The crisis appears to have passed," said Don Merton, the wildlife officer who helped pioneer the cross-fostering technique, the first successfully developed for a song-bird in the wild.

"We now have new breeding stock and the young birds are pro-

duced much more productively and successfully breeders than the old ones," he added.

The robins have been split into two groups, on Mangere Island and South East Island, two of the few places on earth free from mammals. Cats, rats or mice wipe them out in a few months.

The main dangers to their survival are fire, storms, the occasional harrier hawk, and the clumsy mutton bird which can kill chicks by inadvertently landing on their nests.

Provided there are no disasters and the species does not develop a genetic weakness from inbreeding, the Chatham Island black robin should be around indefinitely, thanks to Old Blue.

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Budd's affair could cause tension, top official says

PRETORIA (R) — Zola Budd's decision to live in her native South Africa but run for Britain is embarrassing and will cause tension between sports organisations in the two countries, the national athletics chief said here Sunday.

Professor Charles Nieuwoudt, President of the South African Amateur Athletics Union (SAAAU), said he was concerned about a trust fund set up by the Union's vice-president which is paying for the 18-year-old runner to commute from South Africa to international events.

"Zola cannot have her cake and eat it," he said in a telephone interview with Reuters. "I think the whole situation has become an embarrassment to South Africa, not only to athletics but to sport as a whole."

Asked if it was straining relations between the sport's governing bodies in Britain and South Africa, Nieuwoudt replied: "It is definitely going to cause tension."

Budd successfully applied for

British nationality this year to evade an international sporting boycott imposed on South Africa because of its racial segregation (apartheid) policies.

She ran for Britain at the Los Angeles Olympics in August but returned home afterwards and announced last month that she had decided to stay in South Africa while continuing to run for Britain in international events.

She is due to compete in a road race in Zurich this week.

Speaking from his home in Pretoria, Nieuwoudt said: "As far as Britain is concerned, we have had good relations over many years and this affair is casting a shadow over our athletics."

He added: "I have 30,000 other

athletes to look after."

The trust fund set up for Zola by SAAAU Vice-President Jannie Momborg was going to cause problems because it was administered by three South Africans, Nieuwoudt said.

Under international rules such funds should be administered by nationals of the country for whom the athlete competed, he said. "You can't have a British athlete having a fund administered here."

Nieuwoudt said Budd has to make a decision. "If she wants to compete internationally, she must go back to Britain, live in Britain, become part and parcel of the community. Otherwise, she will have to let her British citizenship go."

Nieuwoudt's indirect criticism of his vice-president follows allegations in British newspapers, widely quoted in South Africa, that Zola is being used by SAAAU officials in their campaign against the sporting boycott.

Japanese team gives Aikido performance

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese Aikido team Sunday presented their first sports display at the Sports Palace at Hussein Sports City.

The display included a number of physical exercises and sports performances reflecting the aim of this martial art, which is considered as a combat art and a means of self-defence, in addition to being a good means for preserving health and providing children with knowledge.

Watching the performances were Sharif Jamil Ibn Nasser, a number of officials from the Ministry of Youth, Jordan Youth Organisation and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Akira Nakayama, in addition to a number of Aikido fans.

The Japanese team, who arrived here Saturday will also present similar performances in Irbid.

Doohan claims tennis open

ADELAIDE (R) — Peter Doohan of Australia landed the biggest cheque of his fledgling professional career when he came from one set behind to win the South Australian Men's Open tennis title here Sunday.

Doohan, 23, conquered his nerves and problems with his usually booming serve to beat Dutchman Huub van Boeckel 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the 90-minute final for a first prize of \$15,000.

Van Boeckel, who ousted top-seeded American Mike Bauer Saturday, dominated the first eight games, breaking Doohan twice in the first set.

Glory days are over for George Best

By Robert Philip
Reuters

LONDON — His stirring deeds on the soccer pitch are a distant memory. The glory days are over. George Best faces Christmas in prison.

The years of self-destruction have finally caught up with Best, one of the most spellbinding footballers of the modern era.

Unshaven and fearful, he was led from a London courtroom to Pentonville Prison this week after the failure of his appeal against a 12-week jail sentence for drunken driving, assaulting a policeman and failing to surrender to bail.

It was the final degradation for a man whose moments of brilliance on the pitch were flawed by an unsuccessful battle against alcoholism.

His lawyer, Philip Havers, told the court Best had risen from humble origins to become one of the greatest footballers of all time.

"Like others in a similar position he resorted to alcohol really as a means of escaping the pressures," Havers said.

Comparisons with Pele, Cruyff and Di Stefano are gratuitous, Best remains one of the greatest talents ever to grace the game, even though the magic came to a premature end in 1974.

Always more than just a sports personality, he captured the imagination of millions. His nights of champagne and beautiful women are chronicled on newspaper front pages in even more graphic detail than his soccer exploits were related on the sports pages.

When Manchester United won the European Cup in 1968, Best was voted European Footballer of the Year and became a familiar figure to millions of people who

otherwise had little or no knowledge of the game.

Born in the impoverished back streets of Belfast in 1946, he became as much a part of the 'swinging 60s' as the Beatles. But the temptations and pressures of the era were to prove his downfall.

He became increasingly dependent on alcohol and even when he did not chase them, the 'dolly birds' sought him out. So, too, did the hangers-on who frequented the nightclubs of Manchester. Best, courteous, unassuming and trustful, found himself surrounded by such 'friends'.

At 39, he should now be enjoying the fruits of his career. His looks and charisma could have given him a career in films or television.

Instead, he is a sad, lonely figure reported to be currently employed making toys in a prison workshop.

The fair-weather friends departed and his marriage collapsed, leaving Best to seek consolation in alcohol, even though he twice had pellets implanted in his stomach as aversion therapy.

But what remain are memories of the slight, mop-haired figure gliding over the muddy turf with the ball seemingly controlled by invisible elastic.

When the mood took him Best, as elusive as a wisp of smoke, was simply unplayable — a swivel of the hips, a dip of the shoulder and he would be gone.

While primarily a creator of chances and tormentor of defenders, Best's goal tally of 137 in 361 league games demonstrated a clinical finishing touch.

Former Manchester United Team mate Pat Crerand still talks of him with awe.

"It's easy to say he's a genius, but people tend to forget just how



George Best leaving a London courtroom to Pentonville prison

great he was," said Crerand. "If you told the United fans he would be at Old Trafford tomorrow, 50,000 would turn up just to see him run round the track."

Veteran Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings, who shared an international debut with Best against Wales in April 1964, is another whose admiration is undiminished.

"They say there were better players than George, well I must have missed them," said Jennings. "No-one in the game today is remotely in the same class."

West Indies in commanding position

MELBOURNE (R) — Vivian Richards emphasised his faith in the power of prayer after making an outstanding return to form with a superb 208 which sealed West Indies' recovery in the fourth cricket test against Australia here Sunday.

Vice-captain Richards helped to lift the touring team, who slumped to 154 for five at one stage Saturday, to 479 all out in their first innings. Australia were 115 for one in reply at the close of the second day.

Richards said he was 'desperate' to make a large score in this match. He totalled only 62 in his previous five innings in the series which continued a dismal sequence that started midway through this year's rubber in England. But he restored his reputation as arguably the world's best batsman with his 18th test hundred.

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Lagos wants OPEC to close price gap

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria will ask OPEC to close the price differentials between light and heavy crude oils when its ministerial committee reconvenes in Geneva after Christmas, Oil Minister Tam David-West told newsmen Saturday night.

"What is being proposed is a cosmetic solution. Our stand is that the gap be closed," he said in a briefing on efforts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at the Geneva meeting to stabilise prices.

At the adjourned meeting, OPEC's differential committee headed by Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani proposed a 25 per cent increase in prices of heavy crude while raising those of light crude by 50 cents.

OPEC maintains a price variation of nearly \$2 between crude of light over heavy crude, although in recent years, the premium of light over heavy crude has narrowed down on the spot market where half of the world's oil is traded.

As a result, some OPEC light crude producers — Nigeria, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates — have lost market shares to sellers of lower-priced heavy crude, especially Saudi Arabia.

Prof. David-West refused to define his country's official position on OPEC's proposal to establish a super-body to monitor oil output and pricing of member states, saying only that "we hope composition of the committee will be very representative."

He said that for the first time oil ministers discussed frankly the "indiscipline among members" and several countries, including Nigeria, were accused of producing above their OPEC quotas. But the average Nigerian output, when balanced, did not exceed the approved figure, he said.

Although OPEC has agreed to hold overall production at 16 million barrels per day to prop prices, industry analysts have suggested further production cuts as prices continue a downward slide on the spot market.

Prof. David-West said the present ceiling would be maintained "because any cut back would be taken up by North Sea producers." Britain and Norway.

Iran support new plan

Meanwhile, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Sunday that Iran supports the plan drawn up at the OPEC meeting in Geneva last week for the policing of production and sales by member countries.

Mr. Gharazi spoke to reporters after briefing President Ali Khamenei, Majlis (parliament) speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi on the meeting.

The radio reported him as saying he had been assigned to defend the proposal for precise control and monitoring of production and sales by OPEC members and "even welcome more strict regulations if necessary."

Iran would try to produce less than its current quota, set at 2.3 million barrels per day (b/d), and to fully abide by OPEC regulations to stabilise the price of oil, Mr. Gharazi said.

"As a founding member of OPEC, Iran by no means allows petroleum stockpiles in industrialised countries to be used to undermine oil prices and render OPEC ineffective as the oil price-setting organisation," the radio quoted him as saying.

The radio said Mr. Gharazi listed as factors contributing to the

current state of the oil market: Reduction of spot market prices, non-observance of OPEC regulations by some members, including those concerning quotas, discounts given by some member countries to their own customers and to companies extracting their oil, lack of OPEC control over large refined products and barter deals.

"OPEC must resist for at least six months, with members selling less than their quotas, so that the fall in the supply of oil would stabilise the price," Mr. Gharazi said. "Otherwise, there would be no OPEC."

Iran is prepared even to close down its oil wells for one month if necessary, he added.

Supporting the setting up of a monitoring committee, Mr. Gharazi said, "If strict control over oil, refined products and gas of OPEC countries is established, the price will return to \$29 per barrel within two or three months and any conspiracy to lower the price will be aborted."

Iraq has recently intensified its attacks on oil tankers going to Iran and oil traders said Iran is finding it more difficult to export its oil.

Many bankers would be happy if they never heard of Latin America again," said one diplomat, summing up the mood.

Mr. Grinspun left for the tour confident Argentina would have the financing deal wrapped up by Dec. 25.

Banks must agree to the debt package if Argentina is to win approval of a \$1.4 billion standby credit from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the focus of a year of often tortuous and harrowing negotiations.

Mr. Alfonsín put his first year to good use by cutting into the ranks of the labour-based Peronist Party to such an extent that "there's no real opposition any more," one banker said.

Opposition politicians and economists have nonetheless loudly criticised the government for agreeing to a very orthodox IMF austerity programme. Not only does it fail to set a basis for growth, they say, but it will steer the country into recession.

Mr. Enrique Szewach of the Foundation for Latin American Economic Investigations recently went as far as to say, "there is no economic policy."

Mr. Alfonsín has admitted that his major failure has been inflation. A surge in prices of 27.5 per cent in September alone hoisted the 12-month rate to over

700 per cent.

A banking source said that Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez at that point told Mr. Alfonsín that unless he took steps to control inflation, he would not be in power to see congressional elections in late 1985.

By the end of the month Mr. Alfonsín's government had drawn up a plan to slice inflation to 300 per cent by next September. The plan was an integral part of Argentina's understanding with the IMF on a possible standby loan. By November inflation was down to a 15 per cent monthly rate.

Independent economists predict Argentina will end the year with a three per cent growth in gross domestic product — a measure of goods and services produced — slightly short of the five per cent promised.

They say employees in the private sector will have enjoyed a seven per cent rise in salaries. But the path of public sector wages has been more confusing and either rose 10 per cent or slumped 12 per cent in 1984 depending on the figures used.

The government is predicting a record trade surplus of \$3.9 billion, all of which will go to paying the foreign debt.

Economists say the surplus will be only slightly ahead of last year's \$3.3 billion.

Alfonsín may implement austerity measures

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Raul Alfonsín is entering his second year at the helm apparently ready to bow to pressure from foreign creditors to steer a more disciplined economic course through Argentina's sea of troubles.

Since becoming president, Mr. Alfonsín has sought to honour his campaign pledge not to pay off Argentina's mountain of debts "with the hunger of the people."

But with debts piling up and inflation racing away at still dizzy rates, foreign bankers have become ever more anxious about the lack of any strong evidence that the nation's economy is being brought under sterner control.

Having consolidated his political position, Mr. Alfonsín is now expected to implement the austerity measures long sought by foreign creditors to regularise debt repayments and tame the country's chronic inflation, diplomatic and banking sources say.

Argentina's Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun has taken pains to scotch talk of recession, but diplomatic sources say Mr. Alfonsín is expected to reflect a new image of "realism."

Opposition politicians and bankers frequently harangued Mr. Alfonsín for dilly-dallying in his first year in power, leaving the harsh corrective medicine for his second year.

"April, May and June will be the hot months," a leading Western banker here said.

As Argentines return from summer vacations to face the full impact of the economic slowdown, the government's resolve to stick to its austerity programme will be put to the test, he said.

Mr. Alfonsín must show he is getting to grips with the wayward Argentine economy if he is to win the confidence of the international financial community.

Certainly Argentina is no longer the international pariah it was widely considered to be under its previous military rulers.

But with \$45 billion of foreign debt still strung around its neck, Argentina understandably has trouble convincing the world's moneylenders of its new-found respectability.

Government officials led by the tireless Mr. Grinspun are ending the year with a world tour to win creditor banks round to a restructuring package that includes \$4.2 billion of fresh loans and the rescheduling of \$16.5 billion of old debt.

The sources said smaller commercial banks in particular are very reluctant to sign new loans to Argentina, doubting its commitment to introduce an austerity programme and vexed by the agonising nature of the country's debt negotiations.

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'Declining revenues will not hinder OPEC Fund'

VIENNA (OPECNA) — Mr. Osama Faquih, chairman of the governing board of the OPEC Fund for International Development, said recently he was "confident and determined" that the fund would continue its activities, despite the impact of declining oil revenues on member countries.

In an interview with OPECNA, Mr. Faquih, who is also Saudi Arabian deputy minister of finance, said the fund was one of several bilateral and multilateral channels through which OPEC concessional assistance flowed to developing countries.

He said the board of governors at their last meeting had approved the outline of the fund's seventh lending programme, which would become operational by the middle of 1985. The emphasis would be on countries most in need of aid and relief, with Africa figuring

prominently in the fund's priorities.

Mr. Faquih disclosed that the \$5 million special grant for Africa, approved by the fund recently, would help provide countries in the sub-Saharan region with vehicles and transport facilities.

"While sufficient quantities of food are available, we have a major logistics problem at hand and we plan to do something about it speedily," he stated.

The chairman, who last week signed loans worth nearly \$27 million with 12 countries, 10 of them from Africa, said it was a "special event" for the fund as it symbolised its deep concern for the continent.

He said most of the loans were approved only three weeks ago, which showed that the fund had managed to cut the "red tape" generally associated with lending institutions.

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Japan plans slower economic growth

TOKYO (R) — Japan is charting an economic course for next year in which growth will be slower and mostly powered by domestic spending rather than exports.

A special cabinet meeting Saturday approved policy outlines projecting real growth of 4.6 per cent for fiscal 1985/86 compared with 5.4 per cent for the current year.

The cabinet blamed the slowdown on slackening economic expansion in the United States and an anticipated falloff in Japanese exports.

The official calculation was that exports would account for only half a per cent of growth in the year starting next April. Domestic factors like business capital investment and more consumer spending would supply the rest.

Exports are expected to increase by only 6.1 per cent, less than half of this year's rate.

Despite this, Japan's trade surplus should again reach the same huge level as this year, an estimated \$44 billion.

Retail inflation should rise to 2.8 per cent compared with the 2.4 per cent estimated for this year.

These projections will form a basis for Monday's cabinet study of a draft national budget for fiscal 1985/86.

The cabinet will be considering a finance ministry draft in which general government spending will be held to a tight 3.7 per cent increase.

The draft is one of several which will emerge before the budget is finally approved by parliament next March and will provide ground for preliminary skirmishing between ministries.

One of the biggest tussles will come over the defence budget which by convention since 1976 has been limited to within one per cent of Gross National Product (GNP).

The cabinet projection put GNP at a likely 314,600 billion yen (\$1,270 billion). This would permit an increase of 7.2 per cent in defence spending.

But the defence chiefs have been asking for 8.6 per cent while the finance ministry is talking about an increase of only 6.3 per cent, lower than that permitted this year.

Some of Prime Minister Nakasone's advisers are urging him to scrap the one per cent barrier and

he has shown signs receptiveness to the idea. But he is on record as pledging that for 1985 at least the one per cent limit should remain.

Trade friction with U.S.

Meanwhile, when President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Nakasone confer next month, they will find relations between the two allies dominated by problems over trade.

Although Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone are said to have an extraordinary personal rapport — they call each other "Ron" and "Yasu" — government and private analysts believe their Jan. 2 meeting in Los Angeles will yield no breakthroughs.

The meeting comes at a time when a low-level resentment of Japan's success at penetrating U.S. markets has become a persistent background noise in Washington.

Japanese products are widely thought of as offering low-cost quality unmatched in the United States, a reputation exasperating to U.S. manufacturers.

For some time the motor industry, where Japanese firms have captured what is considered a permanent major share of the U.S. market, has been the sharpest focus of trade tension.

The two countries reached an

agreement to limit the import of Japanese cars in 1981, an accord which is due to expire in March.

The "voluntary" nature of the agreement suited Mr. Reagan, who says he believes in free trade and rejects protectionism, but not want to preside over the continuing deterioration of the U.S. car manufacturing industry.

U.S. officials say the administration is certain to seek renewal of the agreement, which was ostensibly intended to give American manufacturers time to retort to compete effectively.

As a result of the accord which limits Japanese imports to 1.85 million vehicles annually, U.S. car manufacturers' profits have risen dramatically.

The other side of the issue is an increasingly fervent barrage of complaints from American businessmen that Japan has not taken enough steps to open its markets to U.S. products and has even tended to be obstructive.

The focus here is on high technology and communications goods, where the United States is widely believed to have a competitive edge.

Although Mr. Nakasone has expressed concern over the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, which is expected to total \$35 billion this year, "the Japanese are holding a lot of cards", as one analyst put it.

China, USSR to sign long-term trade pact

PEKING (R) — Twenty years after Moscow's economic advisors walked out of China over ideological differences, the two countries are to sign a 1986-90 trade pact which will put economic ties back on a stable long-term path.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman told reporters Sunday that visiting Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov and Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin had agreed that the 1986-90 treaty should be signed in the first half of next year.

He gave no details but in recent years both sides have had annual agreements over trade, which is set to rise to \$1.4 billion next year from \$1.05 billion this year.

During three rounds of talks over the weekend, both sides have steered clear of political divisions between them and concentrated on economic and scientific ties.

Preliminary agreement was also reached to set up joint com-

missions on economy, trade, science and technology, the spokesman said.

Peking and Moscow have been looking at ways of improving their ties since falling out over ideology in the early 1960s.

Mr. Arkhipov, the most senior Kremlin man to visit China in 15 years and here at the head of a powerful economic and trade delegation was scheduled to meet Premier Zhao Ziyang Sunday the spokesman added.

Moscow is extremely worried over Peking's growing political and military contacts with Washington and has refused to accept China's assurances that it seeks no strategic relationship with either of the superpowers.

Peking has ruled out any progress on political ties until Moscow withdraws support from Vietnam, pulls out of Afghanistan and reduces its forces along the Chinese border.

Austrian-Kuwaiti trade reaches \$37.4 million

VIENNA (OPECNA) — Trade between Kuwait and Austria in the first 10 months of this year totalled \$37.4 million — two thirds of which consisted of Kuwaiti imports.

The Austrian chamber of economics announced that Kuwaiti exports to Austria amounted to \$10.3 million, a drop of 76.6 per cent compared to the same period of 1983.

Kuwait's main exports to Austria were metal goods, accounting for \$6.6 million, while major Austrian exports included vehicles (\$5.75 million) and paper products (\$5 million).

Exports of Austrian special purpose vehicles, including fire-fighting trucks and trailers, were worth \$5.5 million, a rise of 198.7 per cent over the same period in 1983.

Trade with Gulf countries is to remain a high priority in Austria, with the chamber planning some 14 special events in 1985, including fairs, seminars, study tours and group visits.

YOUR DAILY

Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use the time now afforded you to get practical arrangements for the holiday celebration on a workable basis and then later all sorts of unusual conditions can occur to raise your spirits.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have many obligations to meet in the morning, but later can go after your most cherished wishes.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keeping promises made to others is important in the morning, but later be devoted to the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle unfinished work in the morning and later you can be with friends you like very much. Show special thoughts to fellow workers.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can put your finest talents to work early in the day. Do something thoughtful for those who are in need.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Do whatever will improve your health so that you can enjoy the holiday parties with enthusiasm.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The morning is good for presenting an unusual view to one who is very conservative and getting good results. Try a little humor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your home in fine condition in the morning, then accept invitations that are to your liking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can get last-minute tasks done early and handle all important business affairs. Pay your bills. Be happy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have problems to handle in the morning, so complete them early so that later you can be with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get busy doing whatever pleases you the most during the daytime, but later handle financial affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) One in trouble needs your help in the morning, so be sure to give it and show that you are a humanitarian.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A good day to give and receive gifts from your friends and kin and for showing appreciation for them. Be helpful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have the best planted firmly on the ground and should have the best conservative type of education possible, but New Age subjects should also be included in order to keep pace with modern technology. Don't neglect spiritual teaching.

THE BETTER HALF

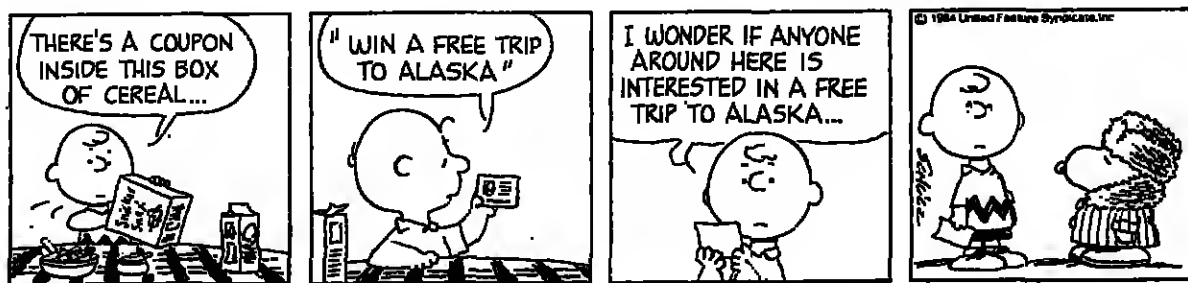
By Harris

SALE! ALL PAPERS 25% OFF

STICK TO YOUR DIET! STICK TO YOUR DIET! STICK TO YOUR DIET!

"Stanley, I found the perfect wallpaper for our kitchen!"

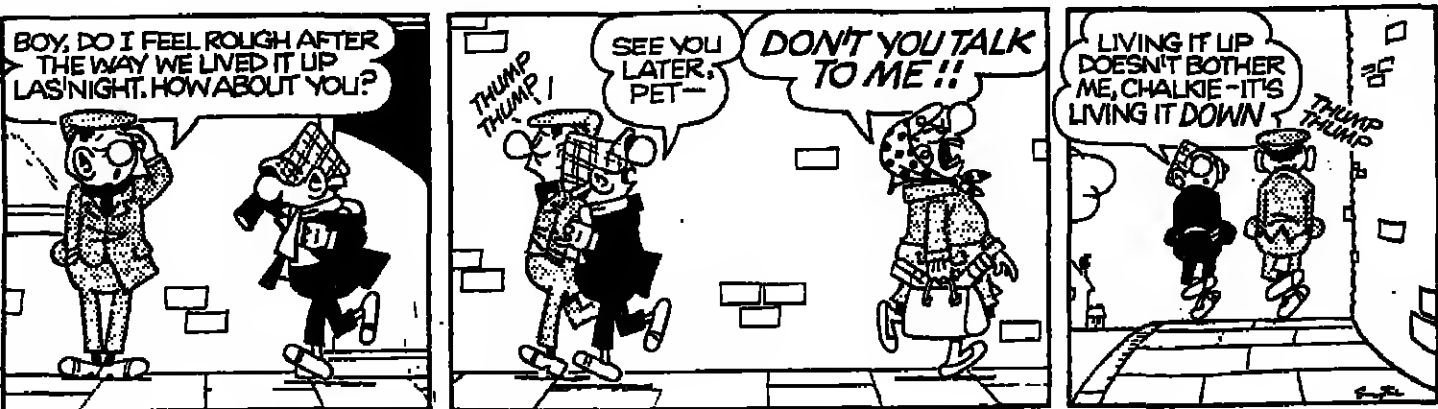
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword

by John H. Helas

ACROSS

- Gate hardware
- "— first you don't"
- Alter
- Year
- Aspen Island
- Lamb
- Wealth
- Money drawer
- Religious representation
- Teacher of Alexander
- Measure: abbr.
- Gulch or Howard
- Tapping member
- Group of three
- Meal beloved
- Theda of silent
- Clouds
- Recent pret.
- Excludes
- Mountain of
- Crete
- Sandall tie
- Gain
- Provides with funds
- Eight pret.
- Inheritor
- Letter
- Civil or human: abbr.
- "Be Prepared" org.
- Alpine river
- Kind of compact
- Needing bones
- Needing
- Attack
- Forbids
- Verdugo of
- Minu
- Lacrosse teams
- Coin opening
- Sounds of
- reproach
- Snicker
- Down
- Sparking
- Bitter
- Minimum capital
- Annoying one
- Jap. bay
- Everywhere
- Midwest title
- Whole: pret.
- One who disapproves
- Came down
- Rivulet
- Ivy League school
- Logical order
- mutual
- Party citation
- Alliance
- Letters
- Lab martyr
- Achieve nothing
- Tennyson poem
- Dispatched
- Talk-out words
- Lock up
- Good-bye
- 55 in unison
- Salon procedure
- Plays on spile
- Colonists
- Owns
- Press closely
- "A — clock scholar"
- Bring to an end
- Topside replies
- Colonists
- Owns

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. GATE, 2. FIRST, 3. ALTER, 4. YEAR, 5. ASPEN, 6. LAMB, 7. WEALTH, 8. MONEY, 9. RELIGIOUS, 10. TEACHER, 11. MEASURE, 12. GULCH, 13. TAPPING, 14. GROUP, 15. MEAL, 16. THEDA, 17. CLOUDS, 18. RECENT, 19. EXCLUDES, 20. MOUNTAIN, 21. CRETE, 22. SANDALL, 23. GAIN, 24. PROVIDES, 25. EIGHT, 26. INHERITOR, 27. LETTER, 28. CIVIL, 29. HUMAN, 30. BE, 31. ALPINE, 32. KIND, 33. NEEDING, 34. ATTACK, 35. FORBIDS, 36. VERDUGO, 37. MINU, 38. LACROSSE, 39. COIN, 40. SOUNDS, 41. REPROACH, 42. SNICKER, 43. DOWN, 44. SPARKING, 45. BITTER, 46. MINIMUM, 47. ANNOYING, 48. JAPANESE, 49. EVERYWHERE, 50. MIDWEST, 51. WHOLE, 52. ONE, 53. CAME, 54. RIVULET, 55. IVY, 56. LOGICAL, 57. MUTUAL, 58. PARTY, 59. ALLIANCE, 60. LETTERS, 61. LAB, 62. ACHIEVE, 63. TENNYSON, 64. DISPATCHED, 65. TALK, 66. LOCK, 67. GOOD, 68. 55, 69. SALON, 70. PLAYS, 71. COLONISTS, 72. OWNS, 73. PRESS, 74. A, 75. BRING, 76. TOPSIDE, 77. COLONISTS, 78. OWNS.

Thatcher backs Reagan's 'Star Wars' programme

WASHINGTON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has given President Reagan her full backing for research on his futuristic "Star Wars" anti-missile defence system and for his approach to new arms control talks with the Soviet Union next month.

Mrs. Thatcher conferred with Mr. Reagan at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland Saturday, emerging to voice confidence in U.S. policy at a press conference before returning to London.

She dismissed reports that she had expressed reservations about Mr. Reagan's arms policies during talks she held with Soviet politician Mikhail Gorbachev in London last week.

The Soviet Union, which has anti-missile defences around Moscow, has called for a halt in Mr. Reagan's plan to begin research on the \$26 billion Star Wars project, officially called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

"I made it quite clear to Mr. Gorbachev that there was no point in his trying to separate us from the United States," Mrs. Thatcher said at her press conference. "Wedding-driving is just not on."

Mrs. Thatcher, however, did not commit herself to supporting any U.S. action beyond the testing of an anti-missile defence system. She said she and Mr. Reagan agreed on a four-point statement during their three-hour meeting, which began after the president greeted her with a kiss on her arrival by helicopter from Washington.

The four points were:

1. The U.S. and Western aim

was not to achieve superiority but to maintain a military balance, taking into account Soviet developments. Mrs. Thatcher said the Soviet Union was ahead of the United States in research on anti-missile defence.

2. In view of the 1972 U.S.-Soviet agreement limiting missile defences, any deployment through the "Star Wars" would have to be a matter of negotiation.

3. The overall aim of the West was to enhance, not undermine, the deterrent to war.

4. East-West negotiations should aim at achieving security with reduced levels of offensive weapons on both sides.

Mrs. Thatcher said this would be the purpose of arms control talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva on Jan. 7 and 8.

Mrs. Thatcher said she had been disturbed by reports that she had disagreements with Mr. Reagan over the "Star Wars" project. "There are, in fact, no differences... these reports were incorrect."

Some differences did emerge between Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher over the doctrine of "mutual assured destruction" (MAD), which holds that neither the Soviet Union nor the United

States is likely to launch a first strike because of the inevitability of immediate and devastating nuclear retaliation.

Mr. Reagan said on Friday the doctrine was immoral and peace could be protected better with a foolproof anti-missile defence system.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger also criticised it, saying that "our safety should be based on something more than the prospect of mutual terror."

Mrs. Thatcher said Saturday that MAD had preserved peace for more than 30 years.

"That kind of deterrence is a policy we are going to have to live with for some time because research (into anti-missile defences) will take time," she said.

U.S. officials said that any differences between Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan over MAD were academic.

Mrs. Thatcher made no statement when she arrived at London Heathrow Airport early Sunday. Her gruelling round-the-world diplomatic mission had taken her to Peking, Hong Kong and Washington.

Meanwhile the New York Times said Sunday that President Reagan has cut back on his plans for a "Star Wars" nuclear defence system in space that would provide an "impenetrable" barrier against a Soviet attack.

The new strategy, the newspaper quotes top government scientists as saying, is to develop a space weapons system capable of knocking out only those missiles aimed at the United States' land-

based nuclear arsenal.

Dr. Gerold Yonas, the Defence Department scientist in charge of the five year, \$26 billion programme, said a total impenetrable shield remained the president's goal, but that had been set aside for the time being because the technology was not yet available, the newspaper reported.

It quoted Dr. Yonas as saying: "What was missing when we talked about very advanced technology in the next century was that it ignored all the evolutionary steps. Now what we're saying is... there will be opportunities to apply these more limited (present day) technologies if the country so desires."

Dr. George Keyworth, the president's science adviser, was quoted as saying Mr. Reagan's earlier call for a total space defence system remained his ultimate goal, but had been set aside for the present.

Instead, the system would be set up step by step, as the technology became available.

"Now what we're addressing more and more is what people call the transition, from the first deployment to the second, and so on," he was reported as saying.

Under the new battle plan, the paper said, a limited shield of space weapons would attack missiles launched at the United States, whether they were aimed at missile silos, cities or other targets, but the main goal would be to protect the nation's 1,000 land-based nuclear missiles to retain a retaliatory force.

After the shocks of the assassination of Mr. Gandhi's mot-



Members of the Indian paramilitary force, at their camp set up at the Delhi cricket ground, are being held in reserve, in case trouble breaks out during the General Election starting Monday (AP wirephoto)

India votes for new government today

NEW DELHI (R) — India goes to the polls Monday with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi confident of a record majority and opposition hopes pinned on forming a coalition government.

Maharajas, film stars, and wrestlers have joined veteran politicians in an election described by newspapers as the most crucial in India's 37-year history.

Favoured by all opinion polls to win a landslide victory, India's youngest prime minister Sunday called on the electorate to wipe out opposition parties and show India was united against separatist groups like Sikh extremists.

"We have to see that these forces and parties are finished in the coming election," he told a campaign rally.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, forecast his ruling Congress (I) Party would improve on its present record 339 standing in the 544-seat Lok Sabha or lower house of parliament.

After the shocks of the assassination of Mr. Gandhi's mot-

her, anti-Sikh riots, and the Bhopal gas disaster, the campaign has lacked the usual sound and fury of Indian electioneering.

But in a sign of worry about election day trouble, India's Chief Election Commissioner K.K. Trivedi appealed for a clean poll in a national radio and television speech Saturday night.

Police reported increased attacks on political workers in the past few days and rival parties stepped up complaints about election malpractice.

Thousands of troops, police and paramilitary forces have spread throughout the nation in preparation for the polling which starts at 8 a.m. on Monday and continues in some areas on Dec. 27 and 28.

An election commission spokesman told Reuters the result of India's eighth general election to vote a government until Jan. 1990 was likely to be available on the night of Dec. 28.

Former Prime Minister Morarji

Desai, campaigning for the Janata Party, a leading opposition group, told reporters Sunday a coalition government would take over from Gandhi.

He ruled out the possibility of any opposition party joining the prime minister if Congress (I) fell short of a majority.

Mr. Desai led the 1977-80 Janata coalition which was the only period Congress (I) was out of power since independence in 1947.

If Mr. Gandhi wins and is confirmed as his mother's successor he will carry on the family dynasty started by his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister.

There will be no polling in Sikh majority Punjab state and Assam, the two areas worst hit by recent communal violence.

The seats in the two states have been declared void until elections take place. Mr. Gandhi therefore needs to win 255 of the 509 seats at stake for a majority.

Salvadorean military opposes truce

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Failure by El Salvador's military to follow the example of left-wing guerrillas and declare a Christmas truce in the civil war has revealed opposition to peace moves within the armed forces, diplomatic and military sources said here.

The sources echoed a statement made by guerrilla leader Guillermo Ungo in Mexico City on Friday.

Mr. Ungo, head of the political wing of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the guerrillas' umbrella organisation, said the military's rejection of a truce was evidence of growing opposition within the

armed forces to peace talks. The guerrillas have said they would halt fighting for two three-day periods over Christmas and the New Year.

The Christmas truce begins at midnight.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte who initiated the first peace talks with the guerrillas in five years of war last October has not responded to the unilateral ceasefire and his military commanders have said normal operations will continue during the holiday period.

El Salvador's business and land-owning community has become increasingly critical of hol-

ding discussions with the rebels and believes they can be defeated on the battlefield.

The military has traditionally defended the interests of this elite class in a country where social, economic and political injustices are rife.

Although the government has rejected all guerrilla demands in the two rounds of talks held so far, Mr. Duarte's right-wing opponents regard the contacts as extending an element of legitimacy to the FMLN.

Right-wing parties control the Salvadoran parliament and feel "position could be reversed in our of Mr. Duarte's moderate Christian Democratic Party if talks progress towards peace, the sources said.

National Assembly and municipal elections are due next March.

Leader's son may become Singapore's future premier

SINGAPORE (R) — Lee Hsien Loong, son of a man who has stood like a colossus over Singapore politics for 25 years, was educated at Cambridge and Harvard, was promoted the youngest ever army general and is now a member of parliament.

But friends of the 32-year-old brigadier general say that unlike his father, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, he does not have a formidable presence and is affable and approachable.

The young Lee, who entered parliament with one of the biggest winning margins in Saturday's general elections, is clearly being groomed by his father to head the new breed of technocrats and professionals who will now run the country.

Premier Lee has said he will be in control at least until the next elections in five years' time, but he has also made clear that his son will be no "mere" member of parliament.

Unlike the premier, who was a lawyer before entering politics, the young Lee had a 13-year career in the military which saw him named the country's youngest general earlier this year.

Three months later he retired to prepare for his candidacy for the ruling Peoples Action Party (PAP).

Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, PAP theoretician and a close colleague of his father, said Mr. Hsien Loong had been selected as a candidate by the PAP because of his intellectual ability and upright character.

The eldest of three children, he joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) as an officer-cadet in 1971 after attending a Roman Catholic high school.

The SAF sent him to Cambridge University where he duplicated his father's feat of winning a rare "double first" honours degree.

25 bodies found in U.S. mine

ORANGEVILLE, Utah (R) — Rescue workers have found the bodies of 25 people killed in a Utah mine disaster and have abandoned hope of finding two men still missing, a mining company spokesman said.

"Rescuers have searched all parts of the mine where there could be any survivors and have found none to be there. We are convinced they are all dead," said Robert Henri, spokesman for the Emery Mining Co.

He said the rescuers would continue searching for the two missing bodies.

A total 28 people, some of them company supervisors, were caught in the flash fire that swept through the underground tunnels of the Wilburg Mine on Wednesday evening as the company was trying to set a world production record.

A mine foreman was the only person to escape the fire, the worst U.S. mine disaster for 12 years. His account suggested the fire started on a conveyor belt but its cause is not yet known.

Mr. Henri criticised the media for focusing on the attempt to set a new record, which mining union officials have said overshadowed safety concerns and jeopardised miners' lives.

"There is nothing wrong with motivating your employees and being efficient," Mr. Henri said.

The bodies were being flown by helicopter to the state medical examiner's office in Salt Lake City 240 kilometres away.

The rescue teams were hampered in their search by the intense fire which blazed out of control for hours and smouldered for three days, sending toxic fumes through the tunnels.

Mr. Henri said most of the bodies discovered were found close to their work stations and obviously, none made it to the "safe" stations which would have shielded them from the noxious gases.

Unlike the premier, who was a lawyer before entering politics, the young Lee had a 13-year career in the military which saw him named the country's youngest general earlier this year.

Three months later he retired to prepare for his candidacy for the ruling Peoples Action Party (PAP).

Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, PAP theoretician and a close colleague of his father, said Mr. Hsien Loong had been selected as a candidate by the PAP because of his intellectual ability and upright character.

Greece warns against attack in Aegean

SAMOS, Greece (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu has warned that "whoever dares to attack Greece in the Aegean will pay dearly for it."

But the Greek premier also said he was ready to meet with Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal at a Greek-Turkish summit.

Addressing a meeting of local government officials on this eastern Aegean island, located a stone's throw from the coast of Turkey, Mr. Papandreu also blamed the Turkish "political and military leadership" for the feud between the two NATO-allies.

"It's Turkey which raises claims. We don't claim anything," the premier said.

Greece and Turkey have come to the brink of war several times in the past decade over differences

on territorial waters in the Aegean, seabed rights, control of airspace and the status of the Greek islands along the western Turkish coast.

Mr. Papandreu said the legal status of the islands had been defined "not only through national liberation struggles, but also by international treaties and conventions."

Greece's sovereign rights in the Aegean cannot be questioned by any power, small or big," Mr. Papandreu said.

"And Greece has a long-term commitment plan which guarantees this country's territorial integrity," the Socialist premier added.

Referring to the Turkish premier's proposal for a summit meeting, Mr. Papandreu said there

could be no objection "if the content of such a meeting was known in advance."

"The olive branch always exists," Mr. Papandreu said, responding to Mr. Ozal's frequent claim that Greece fails to respond to Turkish overtures for a peaceful dialogue.

Mr. Papandreu maintains that Greece faces a real military threat from Turkey, not from the Warsaw Pact countries in the north.

Earlier this week, the government announced that it planned to redeploy Greek troops from the northern border with Bulgaria to its eastern frontiers with Turkey.

Turkish officials described the plan as an "irresponsible action... an instrument to destroy the NATO defence system."

China lets Red Guards off the hook

PEKING (R) — China will not bring to justice any of Mao Tse-tung's fanatical leftist Red Guards who killed and humiliated millions and sparked bloody civil war in many parts of China in 1966, a top official said Sunday.

Bo Yibo, coordinator of a National Communist Party campaign to eradicate ultra-leftism, told a central committee meeting that the party had decided not to investigate former Red Guards "because they were too young to understand," the New China News Agency reported.

Diplomats in Peking said a close investigation into Red Guard activities might prove embarrassing to the memory of Mao who encouraged them.

Mao, looking for an instrument to impose his radical policies during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, urged millions of students to turn on their betters and to destroy what remained of "the remnants of bourgeois society."

Red Guard bands sprang up all over China, paralyzing Peking, Shanghai and Wuhan among other major urban centres.

But Mao's young acolytes, issued with weapons by Peking leaders, antagonised local people who fought against them. Finally the army was ordered to suppress them and by the end of 1967 they were disbanded with many of the ringleaders dead.

The millions of surviving guards are now middle-aged and the diplomats said the party decision seemed to be an acknowledgement that the task of investigating so many was neither practical nor desirable as it could inflame old hatreds.

But Bo Yibo told the meeting the party would continue to hunt out others who abused their power during the remaining years of the Cultural Revolution. He said it was determined to prevent these people from sneaking into leading

bodies.

However, the campaign which began last year in line with leader Deng Xiaoping's policy to create a more moderate, developed China has stressed forgiveness through confession.

Filipino forces kill 1,180 rebels

MANILA (R) — Government forces killed 1,180 Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and "neutralised" 66 leaders of the banned party during the first 11 months of this year, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) said.

It quoted a Defence Ministry report as saying nearly 1,100 NPA regulars and active supporters were captured and 7,500, mostly "mass-based elements", had surrendered.

Defections could sound the death knell for the MRD, whose members range from moderate to left-wing and are united more by their opposition to Gen. Zia than by any ideological or electoral affinities.

Political sources said about three-quarters of the former PPP national assembly members from Mr. Jatoi's home province of Sind had already agreed to run in the elections, which will probably be held on a non-party basis.

The left wing within the PPP, whose founder, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was overthrown by Gen. Zia in 1977 and later hanged, would probably denounce any participation in polls conducted by the generals, the sources said.

Several smaller left-wing parties in the MRD would also abstain while larger centrist parties like Tehrik-i-Insaf might see many of its members taking part, they added.

COLUMN

Thermometer found in woman's body

DAMASCUS (Petra) — A Syrian physician here has found a thermometer inside the body of a 48-year-old Syrian lady, identified as Afifeh Ni'meh, who was complaining of abdominal pain five years ago and consequently she underwent surgery to get rid of the pain. Recently she started suffering from pain again, therefore she went to the physician who referred her to X-ray for diagnosis. The X-ray picture showed a glass body inside her belly, thus requiring a surgical operation to take it out. The surgeon who performed the surgery said the thermometer did not enter her belly through mouth or rectum because it was not found in the digestive system, so it must have been left during the first surgery.

Thief locks himself out of bank

SOLOTHURN, Switzerland (R) — An armed robber locked himself out of a bank and fled empty-handed, police said. Two bank employees arrived for work and found the robber holding three of their colleagues at pistol point inside the bank. They ran out to raise the alarm. The bandit ran after them. And the door slammed shut behind him.

Train passenger shoots 4 muggers

NEW YORK (R) — A passenger who apparently thought he was going to be attacked by four muggers on an underground train pulled out a gun and methodically shot all four in the chest, police said. Two of the four men were listed in critical condition in hospital and the other two were in serious condition. Police said three of them had criminal records. Police said an underground conductor heard the shots and stopped the train. He found four men sprawled on the floor of the car and a man sitting in a seat holding a gun. The conductor asked the man if he was a police officer. The man replied: "No." The conductor then asked him if he had a licence for the gun and the man said: "No." Police said the man then ran past the conductor, jumped off the train and escaped.

Economic reform tops world news

TOKYO (R) — China's effort to introduce various labour incentives and market forces through a wide-ranging economic reform programme in 1984 ranked first among the world's top 10 news stories this year selected by a Chinese weekly magazine, the official news agency Xinhua reported Sunday. Quoting the Dec. 24 edition of the weekly "outlook," Xinhua said the death of Soviet President Yuri Andropov came second, followed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's re-election. Fourth came the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, while the signing of the Sino-British accord on the future of Hong Kong was fifth, according to the Xinhua report. Resumption of economic and Red Cross talks across the demilitarised zone in the Korean peninsula came sixth, and the signing of South Africa's agreements with Angola and Mozambique was seventh. They were followed by exchange of visits by heads of government in Eastern and Western countries, efforts to solve the Latin American debt crises, and the severe drought in 50 African states. Xinhua said.

Chinese leader says 'chopsticks unsanitary'

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang told his one billion compatriots to drop chopsticks in favour of the more sanitary knife and fork. Mr. Hu told a group of peasants that the age-old Chinese custom of using chopsticks to pick food from a common plate was unhealthy, Peking Radio reported. "We should prepare more knives and forks, buy more plates and sit around the table to eat Chinese food in the Western style — that is each from his own plate. By doing so, we can avoid contagious diseases," he said. Mr. Hu also said he hoped that within a generation, Chinese people could eat more meat and dairy products instead of their present staples, grains and vegetables, the radio reported.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K J 8 6 5 3
♦ J 5
♦ K J 4
♦ 9 6

WEST
♦ 9
♦ K 10 7 4
♦ 7 6 5
♦ J 10 8 7 5

EAST
♦ Void
♦ 9 8 6 3 2
♦ A Q 10 2
♦ K 4 3 2

SOUTH
♦ A Q 10 7 4 2
♦ A Q
♦ 9 8 3
♦ A Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

Don't let an apparently easy hand lull you into a false sense of security. Even seemingly laydown hands can run into a foul lie of the cards or bad distribution.

South thought fleetingly about slam prospects over his partner's jump to game. However, he was wise to dismiss those thoughts—North's double jump abetted good distributional features but limited high-card assets.

West led the jack of clubs and the contract looked so simple that declarer relaxed

involuntarily. He captured the king of clubs with the ace, cashed the ace of spades and then ran the nine of diamonds. East won the ten and shifted to a heart.

It was time for declarer to try his second finesse. The queen of hearts lost to the king, a diamond came back and declarer had to lose two more diamond tricks for down one.

South bemoaned his lack of luck—four cards had to be wrong to assure his defeat. Actually, his trouble was that his hand was too good—bad his queen of hearts being a low card, he almost certainly would have landed the game.

Suppose, after winning the king of clubs and drawing the outstanding trump, declarer were to cash the queen of clubs and then simply play the ace and queen of hearts. If East wins the king, he is end played there and then.

As the cards lie, West wins the king of hearts. Now, his only safe return is a diamond. Declarer simply covers any diamond that West leads on the board. East must win, but he is end played. The defenders will collect another high diamond, but the contract is safe.